

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 4-7 are presently active in this case. The present Amendment amends Claims 4-7; and adds Claims 8-11.

The outstanding Office Action rejected Claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Cousin et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,129,509) in view of Sherry et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,941,061).

Claims 5-7 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter.

Claim 4 is amended to recite a feature from allowable Claim 5. Specifically, Claim 4 now requires that the two separable parts of the leading edge are assembled separably to *a leak tight wall* included in a main part of the nacelle, and that *the leading edge be placed on the leak tight wall*. New dependent Claims 8-11 further define the leak tight wall, and find support in the disclosure as originally filed, for example at page 3, lines 11-14 and at page 4, lines 19-28. Therefore, the changes to the claims are not believed to raise a question of new matter.¹

In response to the rejection of Claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), and in light of the present Amendment, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this rejection and traverses the rejection, as discussed next.

Briefly recapitulating, Applicant's invention, as recited in amended Claim 1, relates to an air intake layout for a turboprop engine including a propeller; and an air intake leading edge surrounding an air intake section and forming a rear end of a nacelle surrounding the

¹ See MPEP 2163.06 stating that "information contained in any one of the specification, claims or drawings of the application as filed may be added to any other part of the application without introducing new matter."

turboprop. The air intake section surrounds a shroud that extends behind the propeller, encloses a compartment and is fitted with an opening panel located at least partially under the leading edge. The leading edge is divided into two separable parts extending over complementary parts of a circumference. The two separable parts of the leading edge are assembled separably *to a leak tight wall* included in a main part of the nacelle, and the leading edge is *placed on the leak tight wall*.

Turning now to the applied prior art, the Cousin et al. patent discloses the entry cone to an aircraft turbopropeller that includes a reduction gear housing 1, and a rotor supporting the end of the propeller shaft 2 that drives the propeller 3 and the front cone 4. As acknowledged by the Office Action, however, the Cousin et al. patent fails to disclose the claimed leading edge divided into two separable parts and extending over complementary parts of a circumference. The outstanding Office Action rejects Claim 4 based on the proposition that the Sherry et al. patent discloses the above feature, as the leading edge 22 shown in Fig. 2. Applicant respectfully submits, however, that the Sherry et al. patent fails to disclose the features added to amended Claim 4, namely that the two separable parts of the leading edge are assembled separably *to a leak tight wall* included in a main part of the nacelle, and the leading edge is *placed on the leak tight wall*. Sherry et al.'s forward bulkhead 26 shown in Fig. 3 does not meet the claimed leak tight wall because the two parts of the leading edge 22 are not assembled separably to the bulkhead 26, and the leading edge 22 is not placed on the bulkhead 26 since the bulkhead 26 is within the recess of the leading edge 22, as seen more clearly in Figs. 4A-B. All claim limitations must be considered.² Therefore, even if the combination of the Cousin et al. and Sherry et al. patents is assumed to be proper, the combination fails to disclose the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully traverses, and requests reconsideration of, this rejection based on these patents.

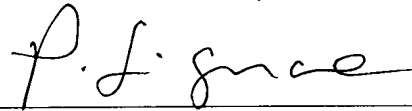
² See MPEP 2143.03

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 4-11 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Philippe J.C. Signore, Ph.D.
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 43,922

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/07)